

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 10-19 are canceled. Reconsideration of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

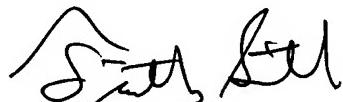
Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); and (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments cancel rejected claims). The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,453,302 to Johnson et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,545 to Morag, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0054035 to Nitta. The Office Action, on page 7, rejects claims 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Johnson et al. in view of Morag. The cancellation of claims 10-19 renders the rejections of claims 10-19 moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-4, 6-8 and 21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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